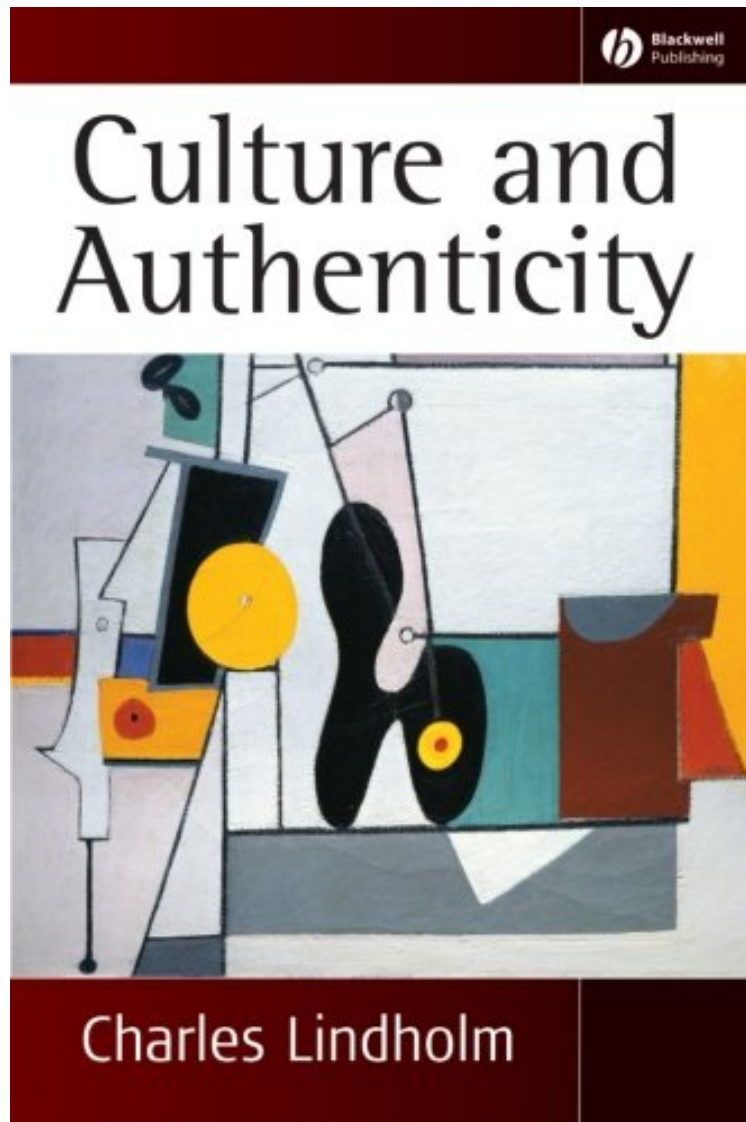


(Library ebook) Culture and Authenticity

Culture and Authenticity

Charles Lindholm

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Charles Lindholm : Culture and Authenticity before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Culture and Authenticity:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. I wish everyone in the food movement would read this book.By CustomerThis book explains clearly and concisely, with humor and wit, the things that scholars have discovered about 'authenticity' over the last fifty years. The things of the world do not 'naturally' fall into two categories of authentic and fake. We create the categories and we put things in them, and there are many kinds of ways for things to become

'authentic' in some sense of the word. I work with many people in the contemporary food movement on issues of health, environment and social justice. People want a lot more from their food these days besides taste and a nice label. But they also want food to be authentic, and that term gets thrown into the mix without much thought about what it means. Sometimes ambiguous words help people find some common ground when they really don't agree on things at all. And this usually leads to trouble in the future. I really wish more people would read this book; in the food movement, as well as in the art world, in the antique business, in real estate, and a whole host of other occupations that regularly deal with putting value on things on the basis of their authenticity.

Authenticity is taken-for-granted as an absolute value in contemporary life. In *Culture and Authenticity*, Charles Lindholm calls upon anthropological case studies from different cultures, historical material, and comparative philosophy, to explore how notions of authenticity develop, what forms it takes, and how it changes over time. Examines the idea of authenticity and its role in modern culture Explores society's preoccupation with authenticity and the search for real experiences Looks at how the concept of authenticity intersects with questions about religion, ethnicity, and race Investigates authenticity in the context of fields such as dance, cuisine, travel, and the modern marketplace

This is a wonderful book, illuminating a phenomenon that is of vital import for modern man's sense of identity. Wise and witty, *Culture and Authenticity* is anthropology at its very best. Sudhir Kakar, INSEAD, Fontainebleau, France No concept is more defining of the paradox of modernity than authenticity. In this lucid text Lindholm, from a stance of anthropological respect, proves an ideal guide to its myriad consequences. Daniel Miller, University College London Through a wealth of examples Charles Lindholm probes the cultural currency of authenticity, how individuals and groups invest in goods and values as diverse as authentic food, authentic art, music and dance, or authentic roots and national identities. This is a stimulating and suggestive foray in psychological anthropology. Michael Donnelly, Bard College Lindholm brings a sharp sense of history, the full range of the best contemporary anthropology, and a quick wit to the topic of culture and authenticity, in this very readable and thoughtful book. Richard Wilk, Indiana University During the past two decades, the issue of identity, its politics, the search for authenticity and roots has become explosively present on a world scale. This book is the first to my knowledge to have directly taken up the question of the nature of authenticity in anthropology and among the people that anthropologists study. It is a timely as well as systematic discussion of one of the crucial issues of our time. The book should be required reading for researchers and students alike. Jonathan Friedman, Lund University In this beautifully written and accessible book, Charles Lindholm, a renowned anthropologist, dares to bring us back to the days of a broad comparative study of culture. Lindholm provides an insightful, sweeping account of authenticity across time and space, in chapters that cover a wide range of topics, such as art, cuisine, ethnicity, citizenship, and religious fundamentalism. The underlying message of this important book is that the reports of the death of the authentic in the post-modern world have been greatly exaggerated. Dramatic social change and globalization have only intensified the on-going human quest for tradition and the elusive anchors of home and hearth. Roy Richard Grinker, George Washington University This is a wonderful book, illuminating a phenomenon that is of vital import for modern man's sense of identity. Wise and witty, *Culture and Authenticity* is anthropology at its very best. Sudhir Kakar, INSEAD, Fontainebleau, France No concept is more defining of the paradox of modernity than authenticity. In this lucid text Lindholm, from a stance of anthropological respect, proves an ideal guide to its myriad consequences. Daniel Miller, University College London Through a wealth of examples Charles Lindholm probes the cultural currency of authenticity, how individuals and groups invest in goods and values as diverse as authentic food, authentic art, music and dance, or authentic roots and national identities. This is a stimulating and suggestive foray in psychological anthropology. Michael Donnelly, Bard College Lindholm brings a sharp sense of history, the full range of the best contemporary anthropology, and a quick wit to the topic of culture and authenticity, in this very readable and thoughtful book. Richard Wilk, Indiana University During the past two decades, the issue of identity, its politics, the search for authenticity and roots has become explosively present on a world scale. This book is the first to my knowledge to have directly taken up the question of the nature of authenticity in anthropology and among the people that anthropologists study. It is a timely as well as systematic discussion of one of the crucial issues of our time. The book should be required reading for researchers and students alike. Jonathan Friedman, Lund University In this beautifully written and accessible book, Charles Lindholm, a renowned anthropologist, dares to bring us back to the days of a broad comparative study of culture. Lindholm provides an insightful, sweeping account of authenticity across time and space, in chapters that cover a wide range of topics, such as art, cuisine, ethnicity, citizenship, and religious fundamentalism. The underlying message of this important book is that the reports of the death of the authentic in the post-modern world have been greatly exaggerated. Dramatic social change and globalization have only intensified the on-going human quest for tradition and the elusive anchors of home and hearth. Roy Richard Grinker, George Washington University From the Back Cover Authenticity is taken for granted as an absolute value in contemporary life. We speak of authentic art, music, food, dance, and people. Authenticity can be found in moments of extreme danger, in the pleasures of carnival,

in the taste of champagne. As anthropologist Charles Lindholm shows in this engaging new book, the hope for an authentic experience draws us to charismatic leaders, expressive artists, and social movements; it makes us into trendy consumers, creative performers, and fanatical collectors. It also can lead to the bloodshed of ethnic cleansing. In *Culture and Authenticity*, Lindholm argues that the pervasive desire for authenticity is a consequence of a modern loss of faith and meaning. Authenticity, in its many guises, offers seekers a sense of belonging, connection and solidity. Yet, even as authenticity has become more valued, it has become more elusive and remote. Calling upon anthropological case studies from different cultures, historical material, and comparative philosophy, he explores how notions of authenticity develop, what forms it takes, and how it changes over time. This exciting text takes us on a journey of the human quest for the authentic, and how it has been imagined, described, analyzed, and realized by individuals and collectives.